

MARVEL

154

RATED 7+

COSTA
SIQUEIRA
SMITH
WONG
ROSENBERG

VENOM



INHUMAN
A MARVEL TELEVISION SERIES
abc SEPT 29

YEARS AGO, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH AN ALIEN BEING CALLED A SYMBIOTE. WHEN PETER REALIZED THE COSTUME WAS ACTUALLY AN AGGRESSIVE LIVING ORGANISM, HE REJECTED IT. BUT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, THE SYMBIOTE HAD ACCESS TO SPIDER-MAN'S GENETIC CODE AND NOW GRANTS WHOMEVER IT BONDS WITH SKILLS SIMILAR TO HIS: WALL-CRAWLING, THE POWER TO GENERATE BIOORGANIC WEBBING AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND BECOME INVISIBLE, TURNING THEM INTO...

VENOM



EDDIE BROCK AND THE VENOM SYMBIOTE HAVE BEEN REUNITED, BUT BOTH OF THEM HAVE CHANGED SINCE THEY LAST WERE TOGETHER. VENOM STILL WANTS TO BE A HERO BUT HAS FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO CONTAIN ITS MORE VIOLENT IMPULSES. IT HAS EVEN GONE SO FAR AS TO ATTACK PEOPLE IT PERCEIVES AS A THREAT WHILE EDDIE HAS BEEN SLEEPING. ONE OF VENOM'S VICTIMS WAS THE PRIEST OF THE CHURCH WHERE EDDIE AND VENOM FIRST BONDED...

SKIN DEEP

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A full-page comic book illustration of the character Venom. He is depicted as a large, muscular, black creature with a white, mask-like face featuring a wide, toothy grin. He is swinging through the air, suspended by several thick, coiled cables that he has just cut or is about to cut. The background shows a dense urban landscape with tall, modern skyscrapers under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. The perspective is from below, looking up at Venom as he descends. The art style is detailed and dynamic, typical of comic book illustrations.

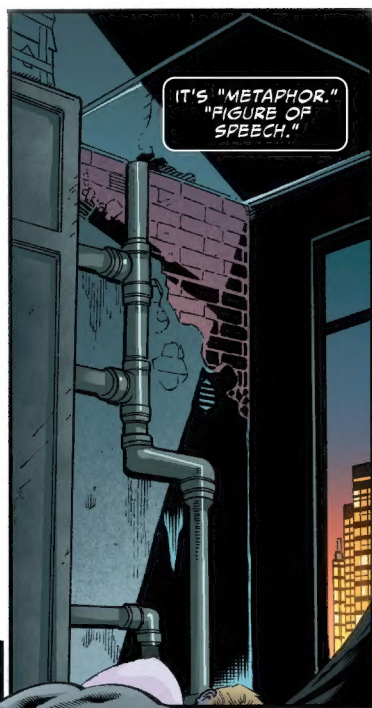
"A DREAM
COME TRUE."

THAT'S HOW
EDDIE THINKS
OF OUR REUNION.



BUT I...
DON'T
DREAM.

WOULDN'T
KNOW.



IT'S "METAPHOR."
"FIGURE OF
SPEECH."

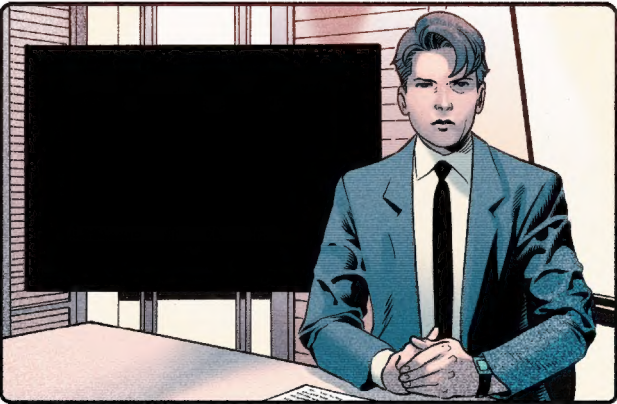


SLOWLY LEARNING.
SLOWLY.

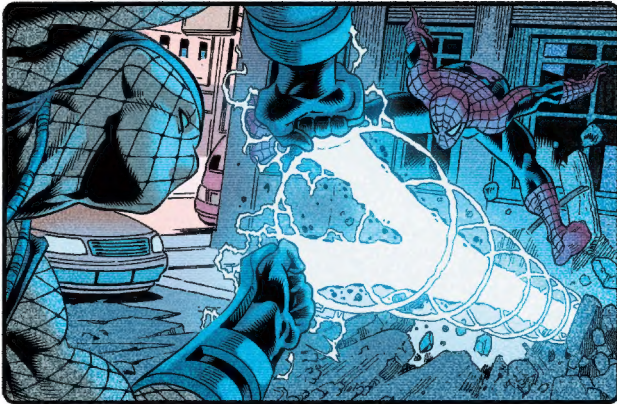


WHILE EDDIE
IS ASLEEP...

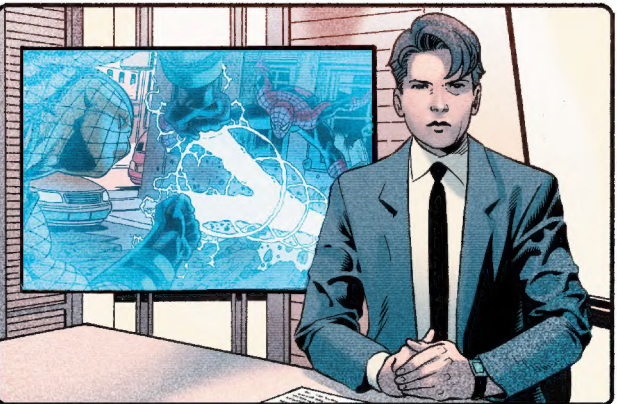




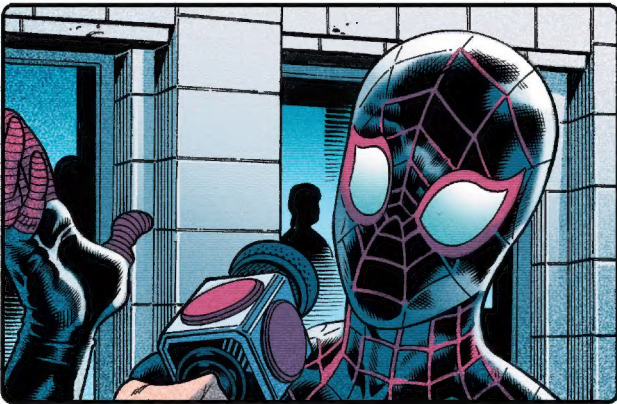
"TONIGHT! ON THE LATE EDITION. A SPECIAL REPORT, PROFILING HERMAN SCHULTZ, THE **SHOCKER**."



"FROM HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT TO ENGINEERING GENIUS. FROM INFAMOUS **SAFE-CRACKER** TO THE MOST INCARCERATED SUPER VILLAIN OF ALL TIME."



"THE **HIGHS** AND **LOWS** OF A MASKED CRIMINAL. WITH RARE INTERVIEWS WITH SEVERAL OF HIS GREATEST **FOES**."



"YEAH, HE KNOCKED OVER AN ARMORED CAR--LIKE, LITERALLY **KNOCKED IT OVER**-- BUT THEN HE WAS TRIPPING OVER EVERYTHING THAT SPILLED OUT ON THE STREET AND I JUST PUNCHED HIM IN THE HEAD."

"WAIT...ARE YOU GUYS SERIOUSLY DOING A NEWS REPORT ON THE **SHOCKER**?"

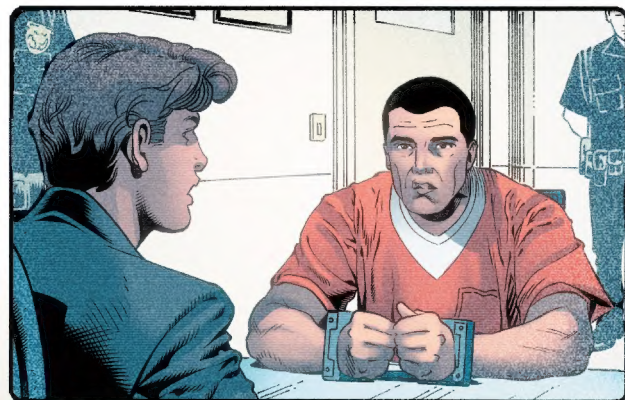


"THIS WAS A COMMON SENTIMENT. AND, INDEED, WHEN COMPARED TO THE MORE **HORRIFYING** CREATURES THAT THE AVENGERS AND THEIR ILK HAVE FACED, THE **SHOCKER** CAN SEEM A LITTLE...LIGHTWEIGHT."



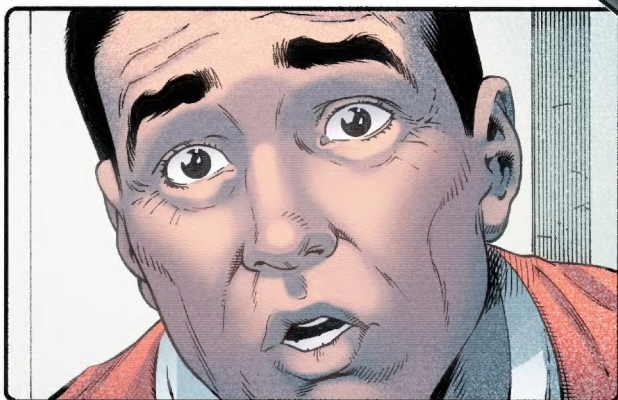
"HORRIFYING
CREATURE."

BAD WORDS. AND
MANY WORDS LIKE
THEM. THEY PUT
THEM ON US.



"SO, HERMAN, ALL THIS TALENT AND
KNOW-HOW, AND YOU COULDN'T
GET A LEGITIMATE CAREER?"

"YOU MAKE IT SOUND
SO EASY. LOOK,
NOBODY SETS OUT
TO BE A BAD GUY."



"BUT COULDN'T YOU HAVE **SOLD** YOUR
INVENTIONS INSTEAD OF TURNING THEM INTO
AIR-VIBRATION GAUNTLETS AND USING THEM
TO ATTACK BANK VAULTS?"

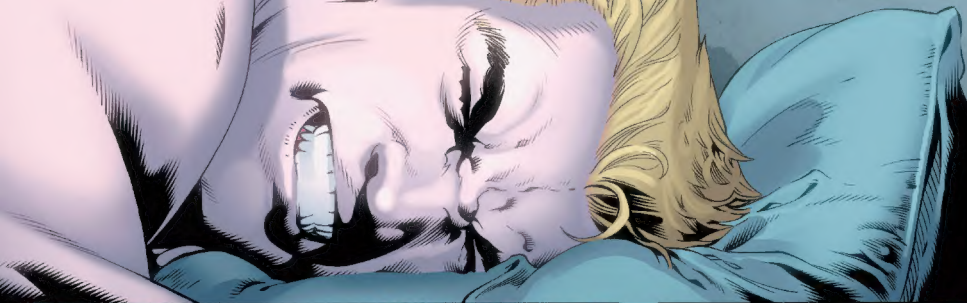
YOU LIKELY WOULD BE MORE
WEALTHY AND NOT IN PRISON."

"LOOK...I KNOW THAT **SOUNDS**
REASONABLE BUT...IT'S NOT THAT **SIMPLE!**
I DID A STINT IN JUVIE. YOU GOT ANY IDEA
HOW HARD IT IS TO LAND A GIG IN THIS
CITY WITH A REC--"



EDDIE
SLEEPS...

...AND I
THINK.



THINK AND WATCH.
THE DOCTOR SHOWS
ON THE BOX ARE
MY FAVORITE.



"IT'S NOT A HYGIENE ISSUE...THE
HANTAVIRUS IS THE ONLY THING KEEPING
THIS RARE STRAIN OF MENINGOCOCCUS
FROM ATTACKING HIS BRAIN STEM.

"HE NEEDS MOUSE
BITES TO LIVE!"

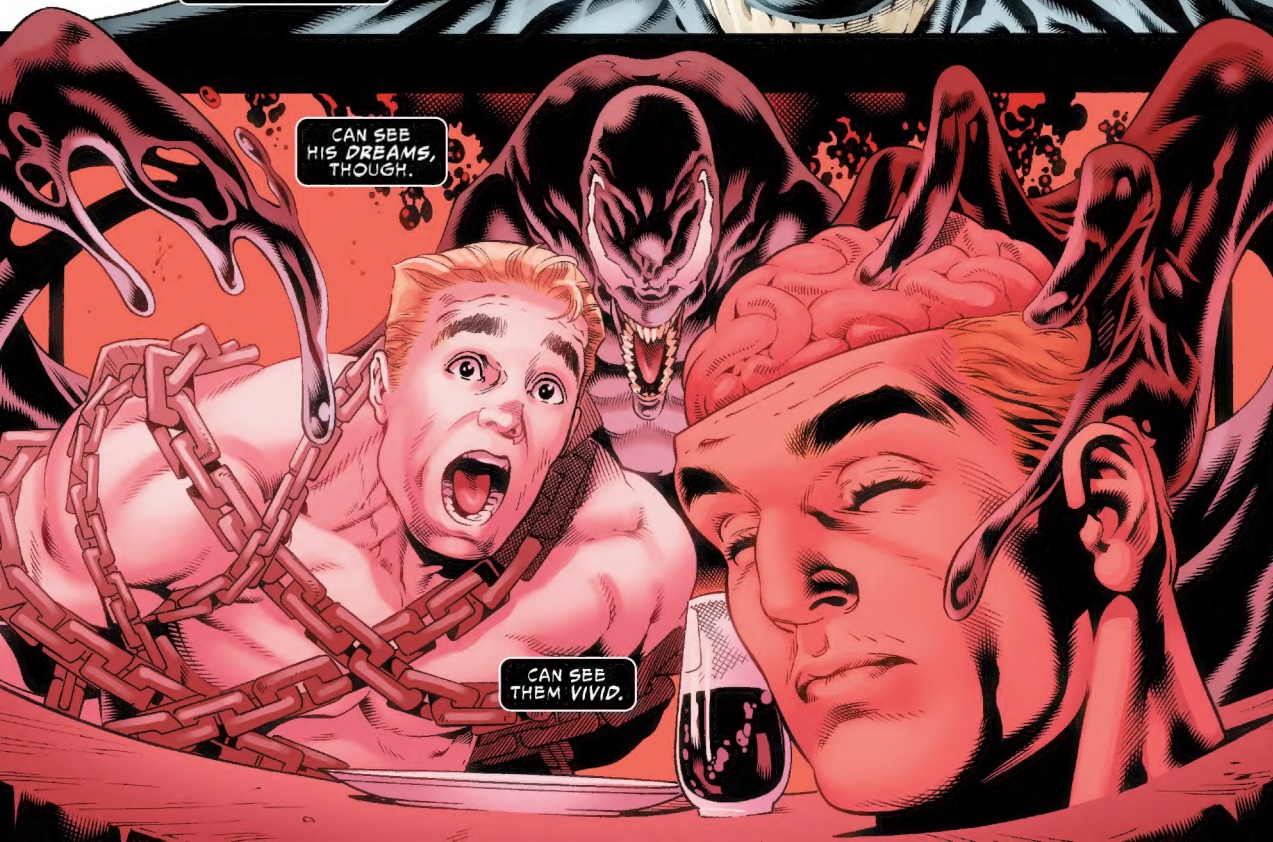


TENDRILS BRAIDED THROUGH THE
SPINAL COLUMN PENETRATE THE
MID-BRAIN WITH NEURORECEPTORS
SENSITIVE TO CATECHOLAMINES
DOPAMINE AND EPINEPHRINE.

LEARNED FROM
THE BOX.

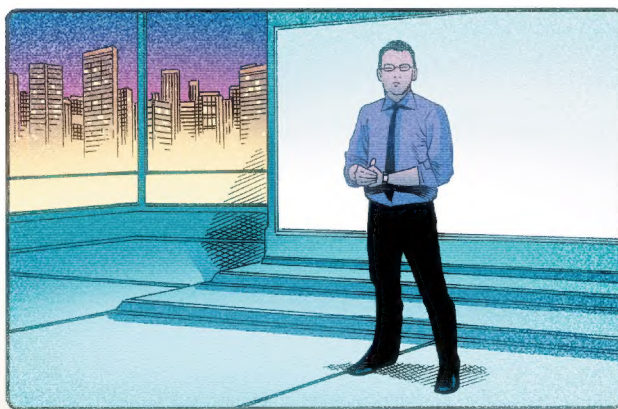


CAN'T HEAR EDDIE'S
THOUGHTS...BUT
FEEL THEM.



CAN SEE
HIS DREAMS,
THOUGH.

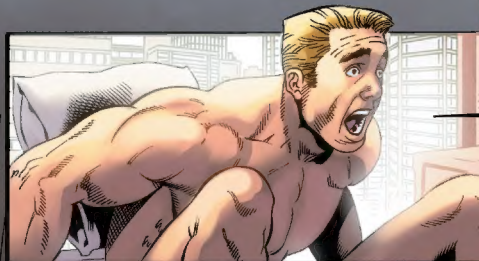
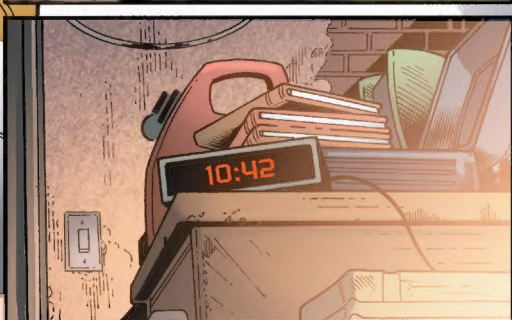
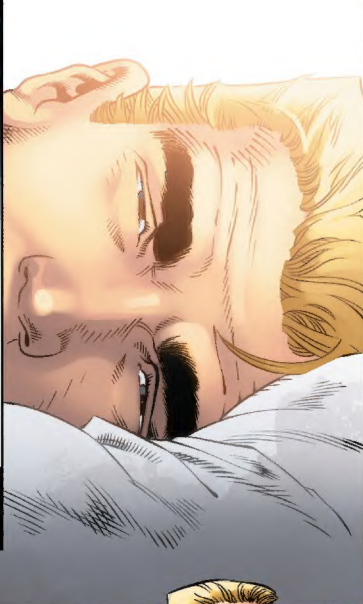
CAN SEE
THEM VIVID.



"A SERIES OF TERRIFYING
BODEGA ROBBERIES IN
WASHINGTON HEIGHTS HAVE
THE NYPD **BAFFLED**."



DON'T FEEL
SICK.





--HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL ABOUT THIS!

EDDIE GETS SCARED WHEN WE NEED MEDICINE.

HAVE TO GO TO A DANGEROUS PLACE TO GET IT.



IT'S NOT DISASTER RELIEF IF IT ARRIVES 72 HOURS AFTER AN EPIDEMIC THAT KILLS PEOPLE IN 12.

THERE'S A GUY WHO FLIES ACROSS THE GALAXY ON A SURFBOARD. SURELY YOU CAN GET A COUPLE OF CRATES OF ANTIBIOTICS TO EAST ASIA BY TOMORROW. USE MY JET IF YOU HAVE TO.

FROM A HORRIBLE WOMAN.



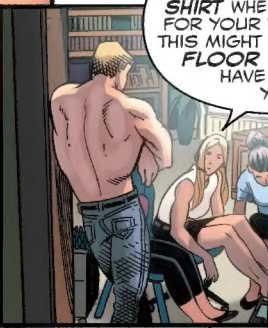
WORKING HARD, MS. ALLAN?

MY JOB REQUIRES ME TO SPEND 16 HOURS A DAY IN THIS OFFICE AND STILL LOOK PRESENTABLE.

WE DON'T ALL HAVE THE LUXURY OF TAKING HOBO SHOWERS IN THE PORT AUTHORITY BATHROOM LIKE YOU.



AND IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK THAT YOU WEAR A SHIRT WHEN YOU COME IN FOR YOUR TREATMENTS? THIS MIGHT BE A PRIVATE FLOOR BUT I STILL HAVE TO SEE YOU.



IF DR. STEVE IS DONE WITH YOU, YOU CAN GO.



EDDIE SAYS HE DOESN'T LIKE HER, BUT I GET STRANGE FEELINGS FROM HIM. ANGER THAT IS NOT HATE.

HE THINKS ABOUT HER.



BEEN TO MANY WORLDS,
BUT NONE OF THEM THIS
STRANGE.

UNDERSTOOD FEELINGS
BEFORE, BUT SIMPLE
FEELINGS--LIKE COLORS,
BOLD AND BRIGHT.
HAPPY. SAD. ANGRY.

THEN...
MET SPIDER-MAN.
FEELINGS GOT
COMPLICATED.

LEARNED
GUILT.

ALSO THE
FIRST TIME I
FELT FEAR.

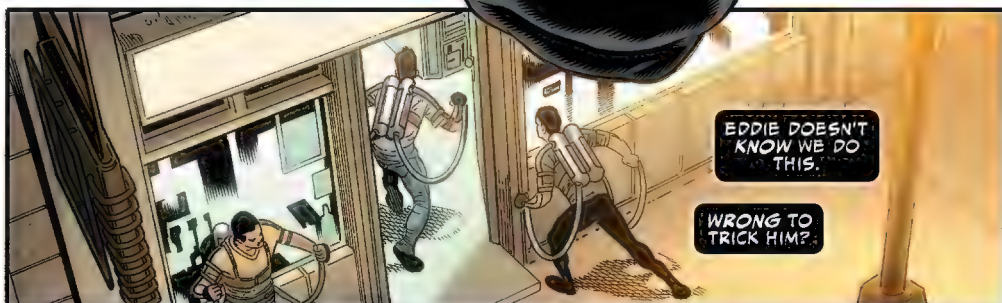
FELT AGONY. LEARNED
FEELING: BETRAYAL.

LEARNED FIRST
WORDS THEY
CALLED ME.

MONSTER.
PARASITE.
BAD.

SOMETIMES WHEN WE
SWING, EDDIE'S MIND
DRIFTS. THEN WE CAN PUSH
IN A DIRECTION.

TO WASHINGTON
HEIGHTS. TO FIND
CRIMINALS.



EDDIE DOESN'T
KNOW WE DO
THIS.

WRONG TO
TRICK HIM?



BUT
NOT WRONG
TO STOP
CRIMINALS.



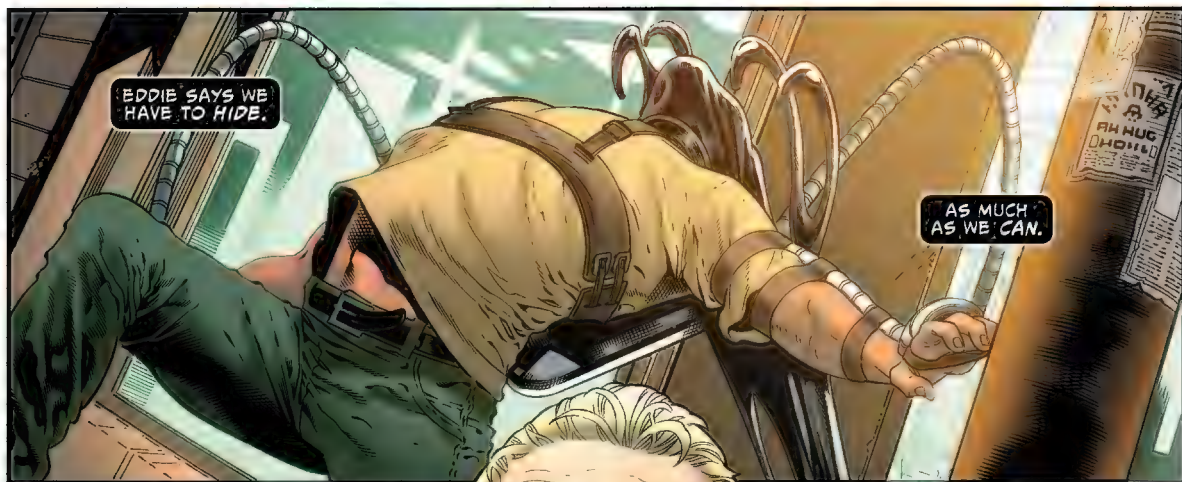
COME ON,
MAN, HURRY
UP!



WHOA...

I, UH, JUST
CAME IN FOR A
LOTTERY TICKET.
BUT I CAN COME
BACK...

EDDIE IS SMART. PROTECT THE INNOCENT. WALK
IN LOOKING WEAK SO THE CLERK ISN'T IN DANGER.



COME ON, KID.

"THE SPRAYER"?

PSHHHHH

o/%#^& YOU!

OOOOH.

PEPPERY.

KLONK

...TELL THEM IT WAS US.

TELL THEM IT WAS VENOM.

APLOGIES FOR THE MESS, YOU CAN CALL THE POLICE NOW, AND IF THEY ASK YOU WHICH HERO IN THIS CITY SAVED YOUR LIFE...

FEELS GOOD BEING A HERO.

DID DO BAD THINGS, TOO. CAN'T DENY.

MAC GARGAN WAS BAD. THOUGHTS LIKE POISON STINGERS.

MAC GARGAN WAS BAD.
THOUGHTS LIKE POISON
STINGERS.

SO DAMN COLD WHEN IT'S INSIDE ME, IT'S HORRIBLE.

KIIIIILLLLL!

IT WAS A THRILL TO KILL.

KNEW IT WAS BAD. DIDN'T CARE. GARGAN MADE IT EASY.

IT WAS A
THRILL TO KILL.

KNEW IT WAS
BAD. DIDN'T CARE.
GARGAN MADE
IT EASY.

IT WAS A
THRILL TO KILL.

KNEW IT WAS
BAD. DIDN'T CARE.
GARGAN MADE
IT EASY.

GOT TO PUNISH GARGAN FOR WHAT HE DID. HE WAS EVIL AND AFRAID.

LEE PRICE WAS NOT AFRAID. HE WAS A SOLDIER.

HURT AND DESPERATE. I TRUSTED HIM. TALKED TO HIM.

**THE PRICE WAS
NOT AFRAID. HE
WAS A SOLDIER.**

**HURT AND DESPERATE.
I TRUSTED HIM.
TALKED TO HIM.**

A comic book panel featuring a man in a dark, hooded cloak with a wide, toothy grin, surrounded by a chaotic, swirling mass of people. A handgun is visible in the bottom left corner.

BUT LEE WAS TOO STRONG. DIDN'T WANT TO TALK. DIDN'T WANT TO BE A HERO. WANTED POWER. COULDN'T STOP THE BAD THINGS HE WAS DOING.

LEE WAS BAD. HURT ME.

EDDIE HURTS ME TOO. SOMETIMES, BUT EDDIE IS DIFFERENT. EDDIE NEVER MEANS TO.

BUT LEE WAS TOO STRONG. DIDN'T WANT TO TALK. DIDN'T WANT TO BE A HERO. WANTED POWER. COULDN'T STOP THE BAD THINGS HE WAS DOING.

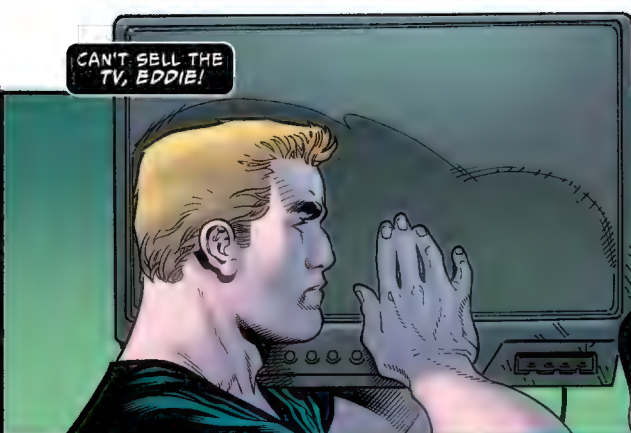
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LEE WAS BAD. HURT ME.

EDDIE HURTS ME TOO. SOMETIMES, BUT EDDIE IS DIFFERENT. EDDIE NEVER MEANS TO.



CAN'T SELL THE TV, EDDIE!

WE NEED THE MONEY.



HONESTLY, I'M CONCERNED BY HOW MUCH I'VE BEEN **SLEEPING** LATELY. WASN'T ONE OF THE SIDE EFFECTS **DR. STEVE** MENTIONED.



HOW MUCH CAN I GET FOR THIS SET?

COUPLE HUNDRED BUCKS?

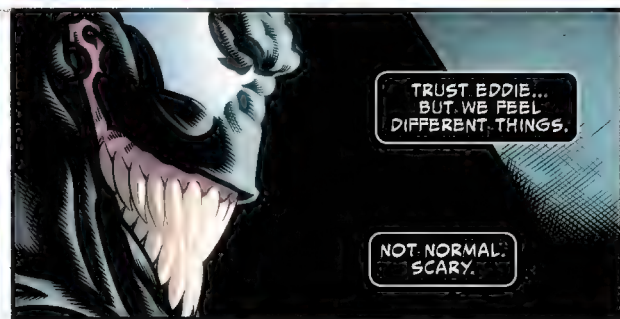
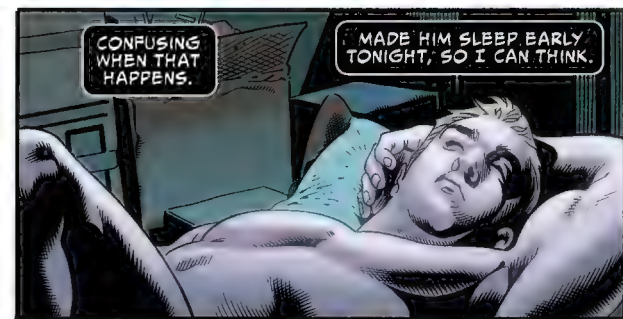
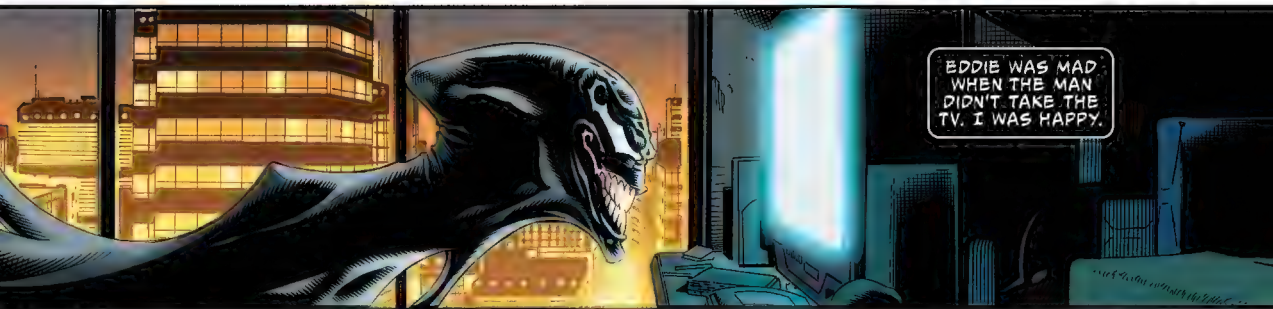


YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? MAYBE IN 1993.



"THE ETHICAL RAMIFICATIONS OF
THIS MIND-CONTROL DEVICE
ARE **STAGGERING!**

"IN RESPONSIBLE HANDS IT'S
A **UTOPIA!** BUT...WHAT MAN CAN
SAY WHO'S **RESPONSIBLE?**"



NEXT UP: "FATHER DAVID SOLVING CRIMES."
A PRIEST WHO PONDERES THE GREATEST
MYSTERIES OF THE UNIVERSE ALSO SOLVES
A MYSTERY OF THE WEEK.

IF EDDIE IS
GOOD, WHY DO
WE DISAGREE?

IF DISAGREE...
AM I MONSTER?
PARASITE?
BAD?

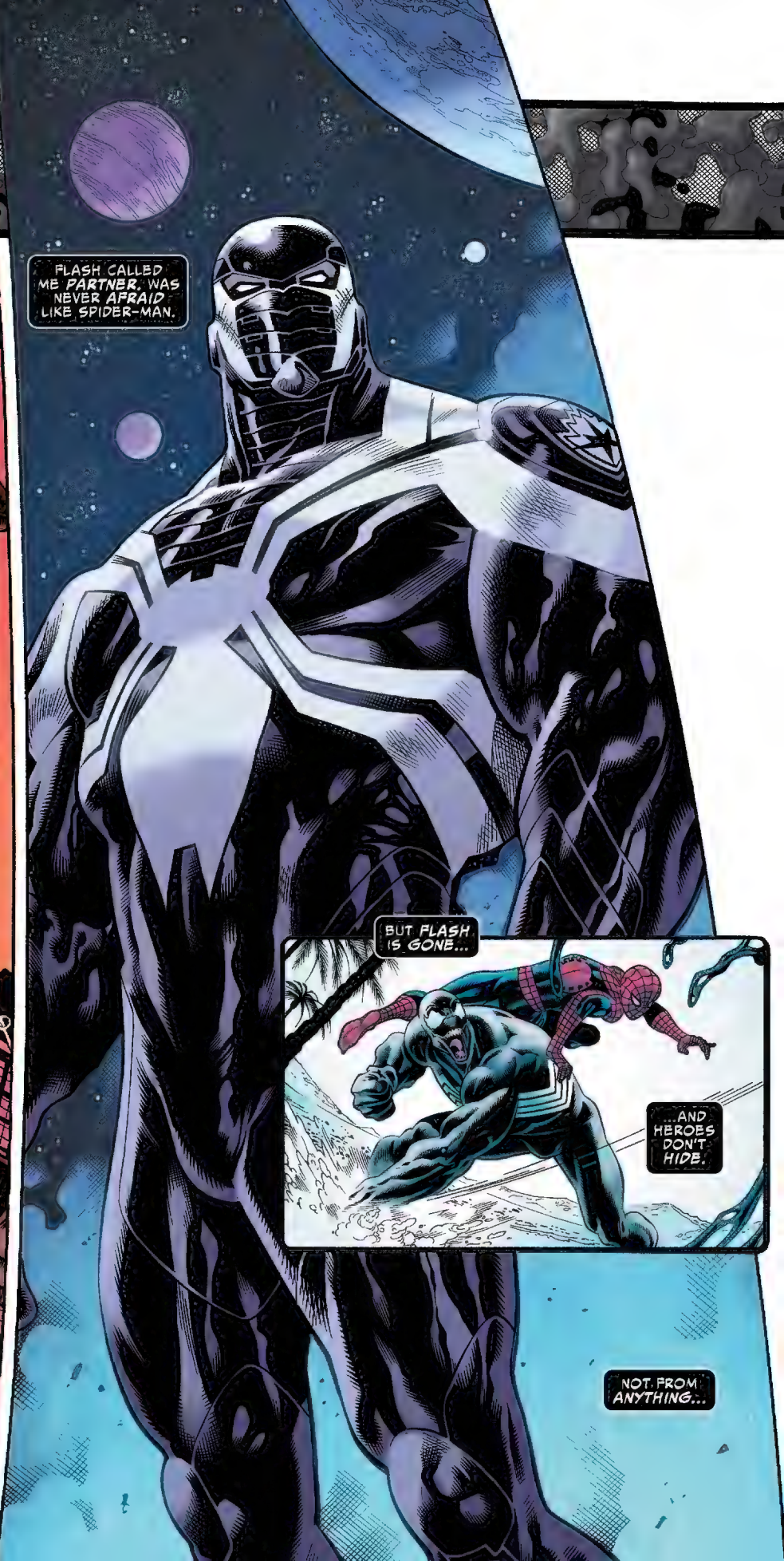


CAN'T BE BAD.
WASN'T BAD WITH
FLASH.

FOUGHT
WITH HEROES.
WAS A HERO.



TRAINED ANOTHER
SYMBIOTE. GOT
TO LEARN. GOT
TO TEACH.



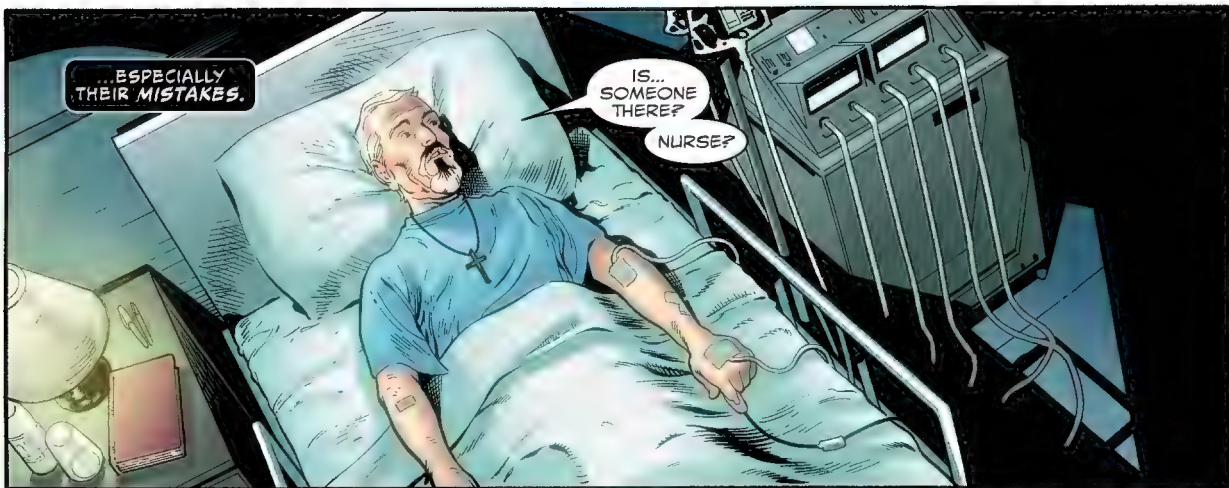
FLASH CALLED
ME PARTNER. WAS
NEVER AFRAID
LIKE SPIDER-MAN.



BUT FLASH
IS GONE...

...AND
HEROES
DON'T
HIDE.

NOT FROM
ANYTHING...

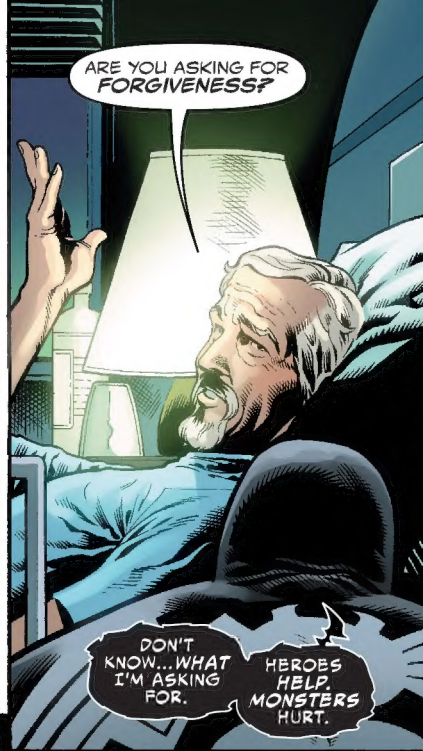




BUT...
YOU KNOW IT
NOW?

YES, NOW,
THOUGHTS ARE
CLEARER...BUT STILL
CONFUSED.

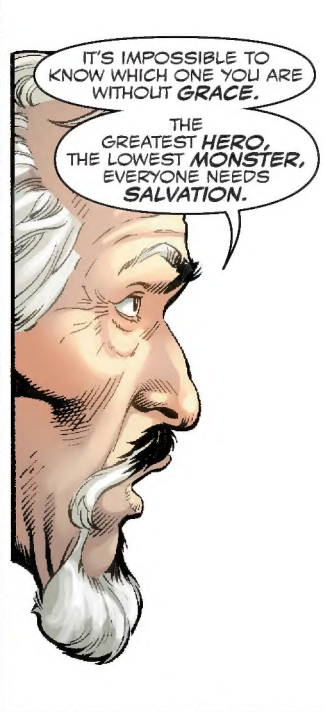
DID SO
MANY BAD
THINGS BEFORE
I KNEW THEY
WERE BAD...



ARE YOU ASKING FOR
FORGIVENESS?

DON'T
KNOW...WHAT
I'M ASKING
FOR.

HEROES
HELP.
MONSTERS
HURT.



IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO
KNOW WHICH ONE YOU ARE
WITHOUT GRACE.

THE
GREATEST HERO.
THE LOWEST MONSTER.
EVERYONE NEEDS
SALVATION.



DON'T...
UNDERSTAND...



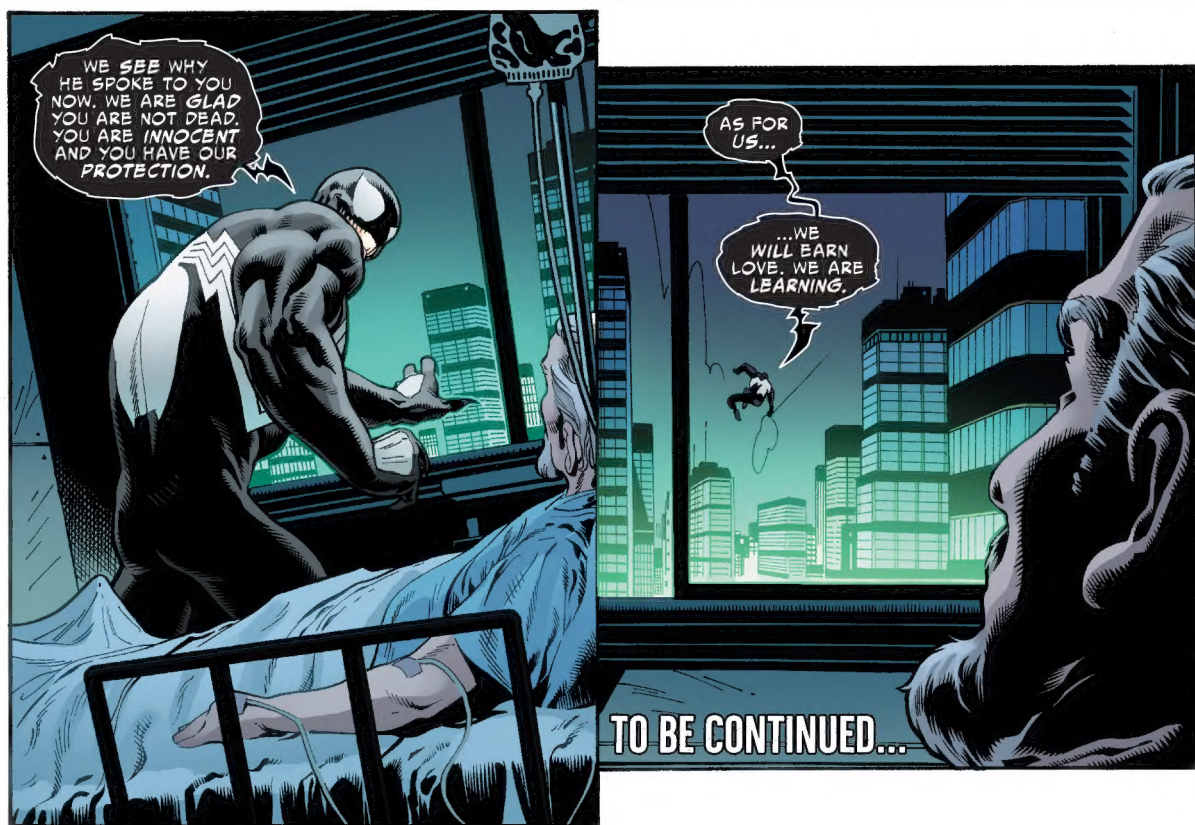
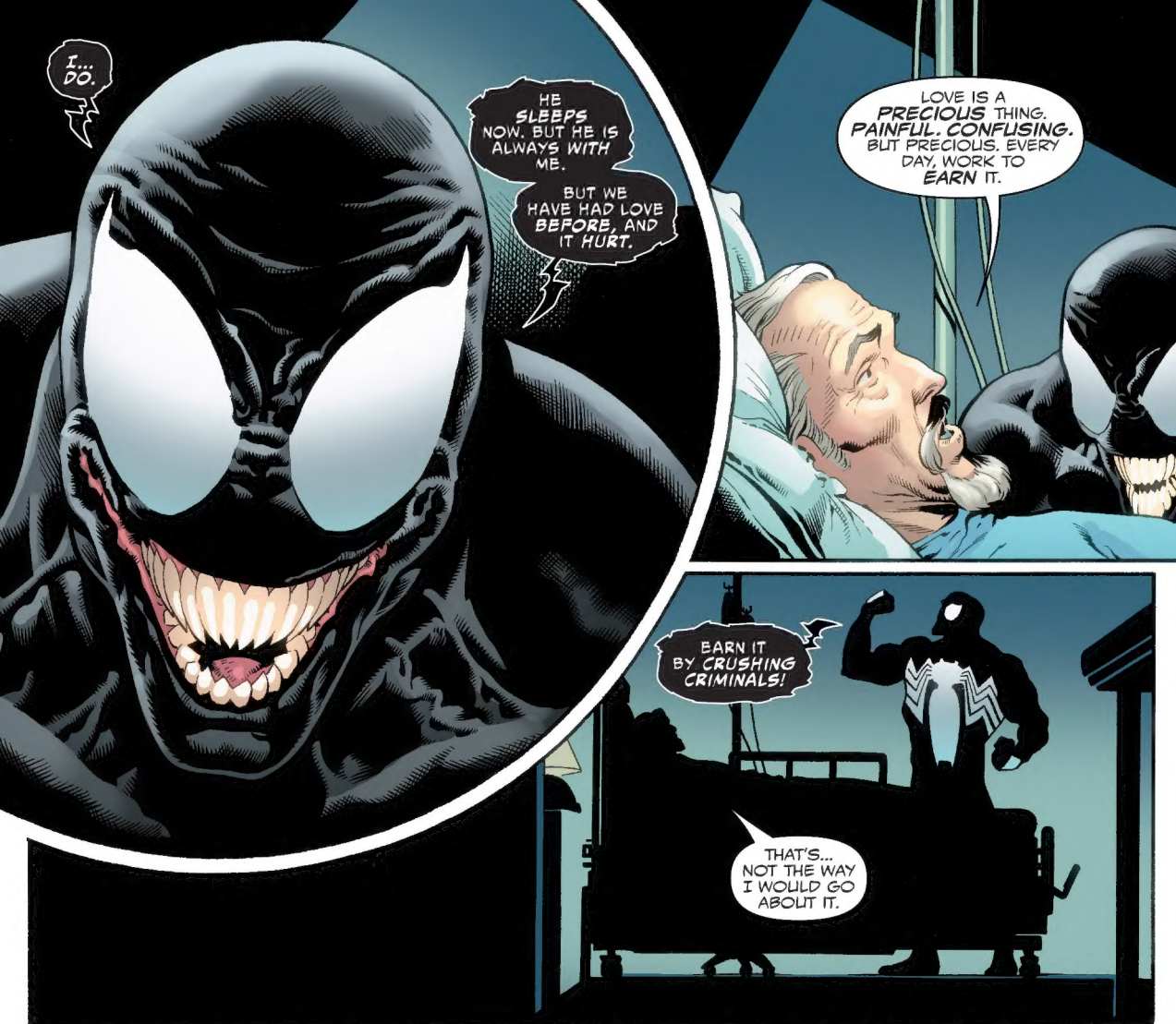
THE
WORLD CAN BE
A HOPELESS
PLACE.

WITHOUT PEOPLE
WHO CARE ABOUT YOU, IT
CAN BE ISOLATING. I HAVE SEEN
MEN IN THIS HOSPITAL LOSE
THEIR WILL TO LIVE
WITHOUT LOVE.

BUT OUT
THERE, MEN LOSE
THEIR SOULS.



DO
YOU HAVE LOVE IN
YOUR LIFE? SOMEONE
WHO MATTERS
TO YOU?



NEXT:

MARVEL LEGACY

BLOOD IN THE WATER PART **1**



VENOM

LETHAL DETECTOR





AN  ROBOROS
RELEASE - DCP